

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LA PAZ 02160 132221 Z

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ACTION ARA-17

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 OEP-01 GSA-01 INT-08 CIEP-02 EB-11

COME-00 AID-20 OMB-01 TRSE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09

H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01

SS-15 USIA-12 RSR-01 /129 W
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R 132103 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9584

INFO USCINCSO

AMEMBASSY ASUNCION

C O N F I D E N T I A L LA PAZ 2160

ASUNCION FOR AMBASSADOR SIRACUSA

USCINCSO FOR POLAD

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EMIN, BL

SUBJ: PRESIDENT BANZER'S LETTER TO PRESIDENT NIXON ON SALES OF
TIN FROM U. S. STOCKPILE

1. ACTING MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, CESPEDES, CALLED IN
CHARGE THIS MORNING (APRIL 13) TO PRESENT LETTER FROM PRESI-
DENT BANZER TO PRESIDENT NIXON ON SUBJECT OF SALES OF TIN FROM
U. S. STOCKPILE. EMBASSY POUCHING LETTER TODAY. EMBASSY TRANS-
LATION OF BANZER LETTER FOLLOWS:

2. BEGIN TEXT. MR. PRESIDENT AND DISTINGUISHED FRIEND.
BEING PROFOUNDLY CONCERNED BY THE ANNOUNCEMENT WHICH YOUR
HONORABLE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY HAS MADE WITH RESPECT TO
THE POSSIBILITY OF THE SALE OF STRATEGIC NORTH AMERICAN
RESERVES, I CONSIDER IT MY OBLIGATION TO SEND THIS MESSAGE
WHICH SETS FORTH THE DISQUIET WHICH THIS NEWS HAS AWAKENED
IN THE BOLIVIAN PEOPLE, WHICH SEE AS A CONSEQUENCE THEREOF,
THE APPROACH OF A TIME OF GRAVE ECONOMIC DEPRESSION WITH ALL
OF THE ATTENDANT SACRIFICES AND PENURY WHICH WILL ENSUE THERE-
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PAGE 02 LA PAZ 02160 132221 Z

FROM.

I WRITE YOU EXCELLENCY BECAUSE I AM CERTAIN THE THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES CANNOT BE INDIFFERENT TO THE MOST SERIOUS DAMAGE THE ANNOUNCED MEASURE WILL BRING TO MY COUNTRY, FURTHER BEARING IN MIND THAT BOLIVIA DID NOT SPARE ANY EFFORT NOR DID IT HAGGLE ABOUT PRICES WHEN THE DEFENSE OF DEMOCRACY HAD IN BOLIVIAN MINERALS, ITS MOST EFFICACIOUS COLLABORATION. IN THOSE MOMENTS OF TRUTH, FAR FROM HAVING BENEFITED IN A SITUATION OF PRIVILEGE, WE ACTED AS LOYAL COLLABORATORS IN A CAUSE, FOREGOING MATERIAL ADVANTAGES FOR THE SAKE OF CONTINENTAL SOLIDARITY.

IN ADDITION TO THIS, I MUST STATE, MR. PRESIDENT, THAT WE DO NOT REGRET HAVING ACTED THUSLY, BUT WE DO REQUEST TREATMENT CONSISTENT

WITH THAT ACTION. YOUR EXCELLENCY IS WELL AWARE THAT MY COUNTRY CONTINUES STRUGGLING BRAVELY TO RESOLVE THE GREAT AND INNUMERABLE PROBLEMS THAT AFFECT ITS DEVELOPMENT AND PLACE IN GREAT DANGER ITS SOCIAL PEACE, MAINTAINED WITH SUCH DIFFICULTY IN RECENT TIMES. THE THROWING ONTO THE MARKET IN WHATEVER QUANTITY STRATEGIC RESERVES OF TIN OF YOUR GREAT COUNTRY, WHICH IN NO WAY, OR ONLY VERY

SLIGHTLY, WILL ALLEVIATE THE PROBLEMS OF ITS POWERFUL INDUSTRY, WOULD MEAN-- ON THE OTHER HAND-- A TERRIBLE BLOW TO THE BOLIVIAN ECONOMY AND A CAUSE FOR THE ANXIETY AND DISCOURAGEMENT OF ITS PEOPLE.

THE ANNOUNCEMENT THAT THE SALES WOULD BE REGULATED TO AVOID UNFAVORABLE CONSEQUENCES FOR THE INTERESTED COUNTRIES IS INSUFFICIENT TO DISSIPATE OUR CONCERN, MR. PRESIDENT, BECAUSE WE ARE SURE THAT, EVEN SO, THE PEOPLES WHOSE ECONOMIES DEPEND IN LARGE MEASURE ON THE PRICE OF MINERALS WILL BE SERIOUSLY AFFECTED IN THEIR JUST ASPIRATIONS FOR PROGRESS.

I HAVE THOUGHT IT OPPORTUNE TO TURN TO THE ILLUSTRIOUS CHIEF EXECUTIVE AND FRIEND, THE HEAD OF A LEADING COUNTRY WHOSE DEVELOPMENTAL ACTION FAVORS THE PEOPLES WHO FIGHT TO ATTAIN BETTER STANDARDS OF LIVING, BECAUSE THE ALTERNATIVE PRESENTED TO BOLIVIA IS REALLY DRAMATIC. ALL FINANCIAL AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, HOWEVER GOOD THE INTENTIONS MAY BE THAT GUIDE IT, WILL ALWAYS BE INEFFECTIVE AND DEFICIENT, IF THE POOR PEOPLES ARE NOT PERMITTED TO LEARN HOW TO SUSTAIN THEMSELVES WITH THEIR OWN RESOURCES AND IF THEY CANNOT OBTAIN IN FOREIGN MARKETS THE JUST PRICES THEY SHOULD RECEIVE, WITHOUT PATER-
NALISTIC ATTITUDES OR REGULATIONS IN WHICH THE INTERESTS OF
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PAGE 03 LA PAZ 02160 132221 Z

THE MOST POWERFUL HAVE A PREMIUM.

THESE REFLECTIONS ARE THOSE WHICH HAVE MOVED ME TO SEND THIS MESSAGE TO YOU. THEY EXPRESS THE ANXIETY OF A PEOPLE WHICH KNOWS POVERTY AND WHICH, THEREFORE, FEARS IT WILL BE DEEPENED BY MEASURES SUCH AS THOSE ANNOUNCED BY THE HONORABLE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY OF THE UNITED STATES. AS ONE WHO GOVERNS, AWARE OF MY DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES, I CANNOT DO LESS THAN APPEAL TO THE UNDERSTANDING OF A COLLEAGUE AND FRIEND, THE STANDARD BEARER OF A GREAT CAUSE AND WHO, THEREFORE, CANNOT BE INDIFFERENT TO THE WORRY WHICH WEIGHS UPON US.

WITH THE CONFIDENCE THAT YOUR EXCELLENCY WILL DISSIPATE ANY DOUBT ABOUT THE INTENTIONS WHICH GUIDE YOUR ILLUSTRIOUS GOVERNMENT CONCERNING THE SALE OF STRATEGIC RESERVES AND WILL RETURN CONFIDENCE TO MY PEOPLE, I AM PLEASED TO RENEW TO YOU THE ASSURANCES OF MY HIGHEST AND MOST DISTINGUISHED CONSIDERATION. CORDIALLY, GENERAL BANZER. END TEXT.

3. COMMENT: ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER RECEIVED CHARGE IN RELAXED AND FRIENDLY MOOD. CESPEDES SAID HE THOUGHT THE PRESIDENT'S LETTER WAS ALTOGETHER MODERATE IN TONE. HE SAID THAT HE PERSONALLY THOUGHT THAT THE NEWS STORIES IN LA PAZ PRESS IN LAST TWO DAYS, WITH BANNER HEADLINES ABOUT "ENERGETIC PROTESTS" WERE UNHELPFUL. THE GOB, HE SAID, WOULD GIVE NO PUBLICITY TO PRESIDENT BANZER'S LETTER BUT WOULD PATIENTLY AWAIT A REPLY. EMBASSY TRANSMITTING VIA SEPTEL MEMO ON TIN SALES PREPARED BY FOREIGN MINISTRY.
BREWING

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts:
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 APR 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973LAPAZ02160
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GDS
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: LA PAZ
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730442/aaaainoo.tel
Line Count: 151
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15 JAN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <15-Jan-2002 by martinjw>; APPROVED <05-Feb-2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> jms 980114
Subject: PRESIDENT BANZER'S LETTER TO PRESIDENT NIXON ON SALES OF TIN FROM U. S. STOCKPILE
TAGS: EMIN, PFOR, BL
To: ARA
ASUNCION
SECSTATE WASHDC
USCINCSO
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005